people were evacuated in the coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Puri, through these message.

In West Bengal, the State Government reportedly directed to district authorities to evacuate people from low laying areas. More than 1 lakh people were removed to safer areas. The Crisis Management Group had met daily and directed the activities.

Disaster Management Team

304. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a disaster management team, similar to the Rapid Action Force, totally dedicated to the work of disaster management; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Estimated loss in Orissa Cyclone

305. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of human lives, livestock, crops and property caused by the recent super cyclone in Orissa;

(b) the total amount of assistance demanded by the State Government from the Centre and the Central assistance made available for relief and rehabilitation;

(c) whether any Central team has visited the State and estimated the State's requirements for money and materials to deal with the situation;

(d) whether there has been a widespread demand from various quarters for imposing President's Rule in the State for dealing with the havoc and if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the progress of reconstruction and rehabilitation measures in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) As per information available from the

Government of Orissa, the Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 has resulted in loss of 9885 human lives and about 4.44 lakh livestock, besides causing damage to 18.29 lakh houses and to cropped area in 18.43 lakh ha.

(b) Government of Orissa, in the first instance, had demanded Rs. 2500 crore as Central assistance to undertake relief and restoration measures and requested to treat the entire amount as grant and not as loan or advance. The Union Government has already released ad hoc assistance of Rs. 200 crore from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance, to the Government of Orissa, in the wake of Super Cyclone. Further ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 300 crore has been announced. Relief and restoration measures have been taken up on a national scale. An advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore was also sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999.

(c) No Central team has so far been deputed to Orissa for assessment of the financial requirements of the State Government on account of the damage caused due to the Super cyclone.

(d) There is no proposal before Government to place the State of Orissa under President's rule by invoking the provisions of article 356 of the Constitution of India.

(e) The relief and restoration measures have been undertaken on a national scale. The State Government have authorised the district Collectors to continue operation of free kitchen in areas where distress conditions are found to be prevailing on the basis of need assessment. Rice, kerosene oil and petroleum products have been supplied to the cyclone affected districts. Clothing and temporary shelter materials have also been supplied to the affected pockets. Availability of essential commodities in the affected areas has been ensured.

Calamity Relief Share Ratio

306. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to amend the share ratio in respect of national fund for Calamity relief for the State of Orissa in view of the recent Super cyclone which has been termed as national calamity in Orissa by the Hon'ble Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.